

MARVEL®

5431.COM

STRACZYNski • GARNEY



BACK IN BLACK

# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

When high school student Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, he gained the proportionate strength, agility, and abilities of the arachnid. More importantly, he learned that with great power comes great responsibility.

After he had already revealed his secret identity to the United States Government per the Superhuman Registration Act, Peter found himself at odds with Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, and his registration agenda. The decision to leave Stark's side made Peter a fugitive, forced into hiding in a sleazy motel with his wife, Mary Jane, and his Aunt May.

Returning to the motel after the conclusion of the super hero Civil War, Peter was met by an attempt on his life. He acted quickly enough to save himself and Mary Jane from harm, but the bullet meant for him instead struck Aunt May. Frantic to save May's life, Peter rushed her to the hospital. Not knowing how else to help her, he resolved to do the only thing he could: hunt down the men responsible. Little did he know, though, that the trail leading to the shooter would also lead right to the man who took out the hit.

After giving May a transfusion of his radioactive blood in a last-ditch effort to save her life, Peter headed for Riker's Island to confront the man responsible for her condition—Wilson Fisk, a.k.a. the Kingpin of Crime. Peter beat Fisk to within an inch of his life and left him with a promise: the moment Aunt May dies, he'll come back to finish what he started.



SO. AUNT  
MAY.

ANYTHING  
NEW BY YOU?

**BACK  
IN  
BLACK**  
PART  
5  
OF 5

**An Incident on the Fourth Floor**

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI | RON GARNEY | BILL REINHOLD | MATT MILLA | VC'S CORY PETIT | DANIEL KETCHUM | AXEL ALONSO | JOE QUESADA | DAN BUCKLEY  
WRITER | PENCILER | INKER | COLORIST | LETTERER | ASST. EDITOR | EDITOR | EDITOR IN CHIEF | PUBLISHER



DO YOU SEE ANY  
CHANGE IN HER  
CONDITION?

MMMM...  
SHE SEEMS A LITTLE  
RUDDIER IN THE CHEEKS,  
BUT OTHERWISE, THERE'S  
NOTHING THAT I CAN TELL  
OFFHAND. WE'LL SEE  
WHAT THE BLOOD  
TESTS SHOW.



AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL FROM THE BLOOD WORKUP, SHE MUST'VE BUILT UP A RESISTANCE OR AN IMMUNITY TO MY BLOOD FROM THE LAST TIME I DID THIS. SO IT WAS JUST USELESS--

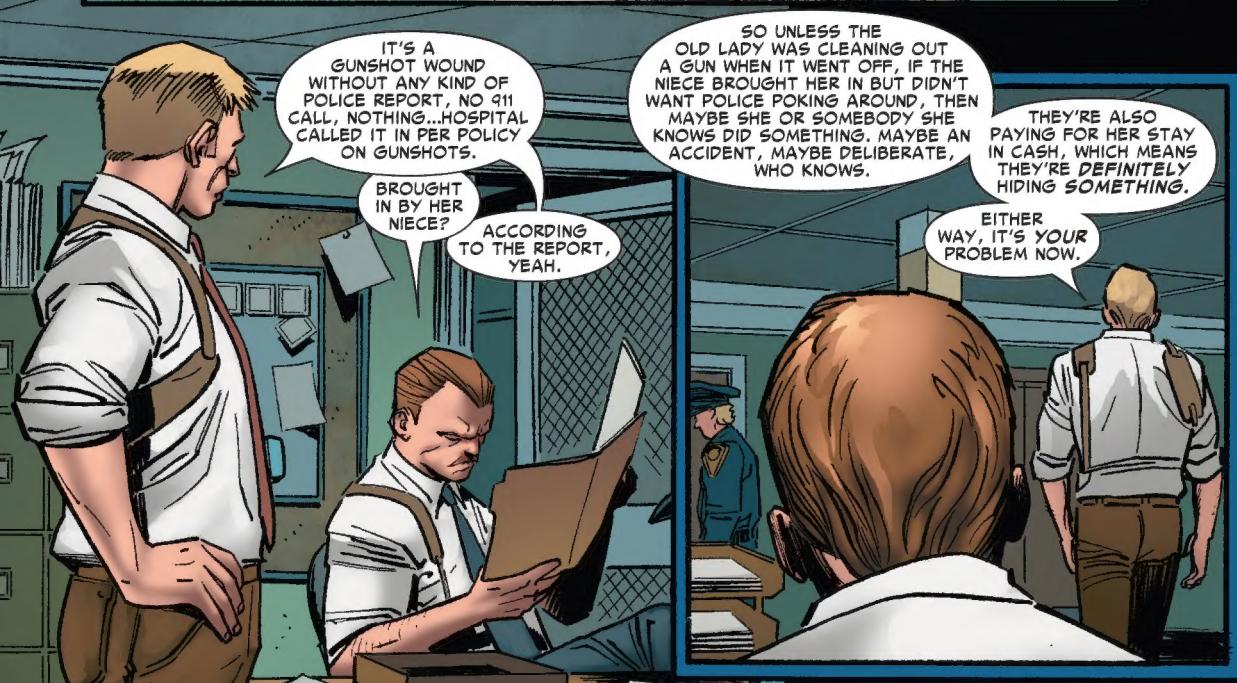
--USELESS.



THE STAFF KEEP ME INFORMED ABOUT PATIENTS THAT MAY BE ABOUT TO ENTER A TERMINAL PHASE IN THEIR

TREATMENT, BECAUSE AS UNCOMFORTABLE AS IT IS FOR ALL OF US, NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL THESE THINGS MAY BE, WE MUST PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.







WE'VE GOT HER LOGGED IN AS A VICTIM OF A DRIVE-BY SHOOTING. THE NAME ON THE ADMISSIONS SLIP IS REILLY, BUT THE ONLY I.D. THAT WALKED IN WITH THAT NAME WAS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

HUH.

AND THAT'S NOT THE ONLY WEIRD THING.

BEEN TRACKING HER VITALS SINCE SHE GOT IN, AND IN THE LAST 48 HOURS THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN HER BLOOD REPORT.

I HAD TO GET A SECOND COPY BECAUSE THE FIRST ONE CONVENIENTLY JUST DISAPPEARED.

UH-HUH.

INTERESTING.

OKAY, I CAN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OUT OF THIS...WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IN THE LAST 48 HOURS, HER BLOOD COUNT CHANGED AND WE'VE DETECTED TRACES OF RADIATION IN HER SYSTEM THAT WEREN'T THERE WHEN SHE ARRIVED.

RADIATION!?

AND SOMETHING THE LAB CAN ONLY IDENTIFY AS A VARIANT OF SPIDER VENOM.

THE NIECE, MARY, HAS BEEN WITH HER ALMOST NONSTOP SINCE SHE WAS ADMITTED. WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'S BEEN DOING IN THERE AT NIGHT WHEN NOBODY'S LOOKING?

SHE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND OR A HUSBAND, BUT NOBODY'S SEEN HIM ONCE.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK HAPPENED?



--THE GUN WENT OFF, WHICH SCARED HIM INTO FLEEING.

"AND THAT'S WHY WE FOUND HER THAT WAY."

POSSIBLE. WHAT ELSE?

WELL, THEY LIED WHEN THEY SAID THEY FILED A POLICE REPORT ON THE DRIVE-BY SHOOTING, AND THEY'VE BEEN PAYING WITH CASH SINCE THEY GOT HERE.

THAT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE ANY INSURANCE CARRIER WOULD WANT PROOF OF A DRIVE-BY, SO THEY'D CONTACT THE POLICE FOR CONFIRMATION. IT WOULD ALSO MEAN GIVING US AND THE INSURER HER FULL, CURRENT LAST NAME.

"SINCE THE OLD LADY WOULD RUIN THE WHOLE THING IF SHE WOKE UP, THE NIECE HAS BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME TO MAKE SURE SHE DIDN'T TALK--

--AND MAY HAVE SLIPPED IN HER LOVER TO FINISH THE JOB WITH SOME KIND OF TOXIN WE HAVEN'T YET IDENTIFIED."

AND THEN, THE WAY SHE WAS ASKING ABOUT ANY CHANGES IN HER CONDITION TODAY, LIKE SHE KNEW SOMETHING--

WELL, IT'S NOT THE ONLY EXPLANATION, BUT IT MAKES SENSE AS A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION. AND NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT, WHEN SHE DIDN'T FILE A POLICE REPORT AND LIED ABOUT IT ON THE FORM, THAT'S GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION AND PROBABLE CAUSE.

IT'S ALSO A FELONY OFFENSE ALL BY ITSELF.



STAYING HERE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, MA'AM, AND MAY IN FACT BE PART OF THE PROBLEM.

I DON'T...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, I--

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME WITH ME.

ARE YOU AWARE THAT FAILING TO FILE A GUNSHOT REPORT, AND THAT GIVING MISLEADING OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION IN RELATION TO A GUNSHOT INVESTIGATION ARE FELONY OFFENSES?

NO, I...I HAVE TO STAY HERE, I--

MA'AM, WE CAN DO THIS ONE OF TWO WAYS, WITH HANDCUFFS OR WITHOUT, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY--

--WHAT THE--

LIGHTS ARE OFF, BUT THE EQUIPMENT IS STILL WORKING. SOMEBODY WANTS IT DARK.

STAY HERE, MA'AM.

NO, WAIT, I--

SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO DO THIS.

LET HER GO.



POLICE!  
WHOEVER YOU  
ARE, I'M ORDERING  
YOU TO GET ON  
THE FLOOR.

NO.

GET ON THE  
FLOOR RIGHT NOW!  
I'M NOT GOING TO  
TELL YOU AGAIN!



YOU'VE  
GOT THAT  
RIGHT.



**BAM!**



And there's nothing I can do about it.

OKAY, MJ, WE HAVE TO MOVE FAST. WE NEED TO GET YOU AND AUNT MAY OUT OF HERE, PRONTO.

BUT--

DON'T ARGUE. GET DOWNTAIRS AND OUTSIDE, I'LL CALL ON THE CELL WHEN WE'RE READY TO MOVE.

NOW GO. I'LL BUY US SOME TIME.

Felony count number one: failing to file a police report on a gunshot wound.

Felony count number two: assaulting a police officer.

Felony count number three: wrongful imprisonment.

Can't use webbing, can't have this point to Spider-Man until well after May is clear.

Felony count number four: fleeing the scene of a crime.

--SO SHE'S BUSTING MY CHOPS BECAUSE I'M STILL LIVING AT MY MOM'S WHILE I BUILD UP THE OLD NEST EGG. IT'S NOT LIKE I LIKE IT OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO FOR A WHILE, Y'KNOW?

I HEAR YOU.



Felony count  
number five: grand  
theft auto.

MJ, YOU READY?

JUST TELL  
ME WHAT TO  
DO.

Felony count  
number six: breaking  
and entering.

OKAY,  
MJ, I'M  
SET.

GO.

GOING.

OH MY GOD...NURSE!  
THERE'S SOMEONE ON  
THE FLOOR OF THE  
LOBBY...I THINK SHE'S  
HAVING A HEART  
ATTACK!

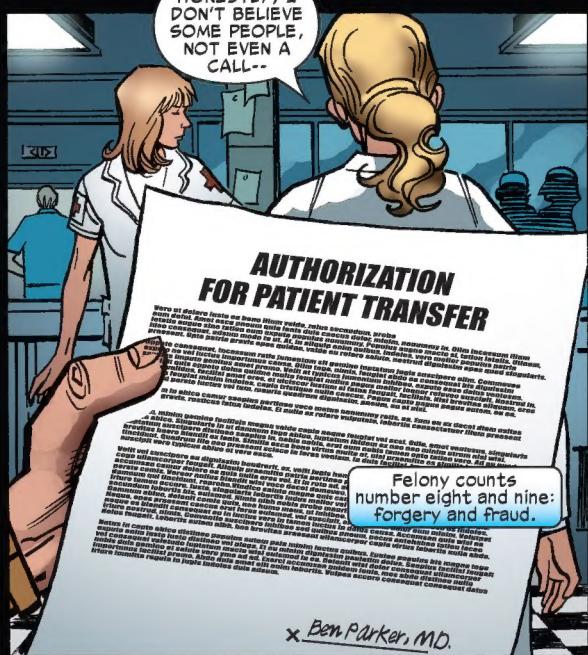
WHAT?  
SHE'S  
TURNING  
BLUE!

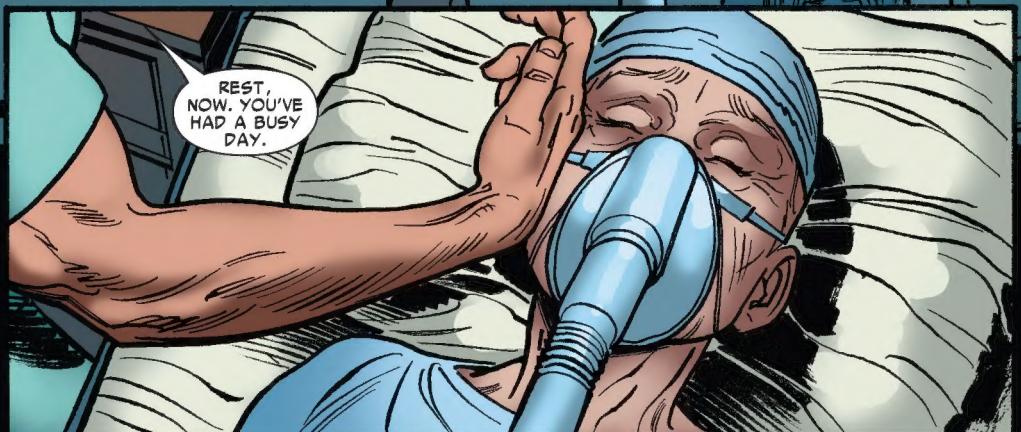
CODE BLUE,  
ANY AVAILABLE  
DOCTORS TO THE  
LOBBY, CODE  
BLUE!

AUTHORIZATION  
FOR PATIENT TRANSFER













Nine felony counts.

Not committed by somebody in a mask that can't be tracked down.

Not committed by Spider-Man.

Nine felonies committed by **ME**, with my fingerprints all over everything. Me. Peter Parker.

I can't say it was a trap, or a frame-up, or an anti-registration technicality, or anything else. I committed those crimes.

I have become the very thing I set out to fight. A criminal.

All my life, I've had nightmares about being accused of a crime and being sent to jail. And now I'm trapped in that nightmare, only this time it's real. It's **REAL**.

I'm lost...God help me, I'm so lost...

Barney  
Was REINHOLD  
THE MATT  
END!!

TO BE CONCLUDED IN  
"ONE MORE DAY."